

• Abroad •

Sverdlovsk, USSR. Late last summer travel was prohibited for some weeks in the Sverdlovsk-Chelyabinsk region of the central Urals. A leak from a nuclear physicist of a captive nation, recently returned home from work in the Soviet Union, has disclosed the reason. There was a major accident to the atomic installations in that area, which the physicist described as a collapse of the filter system. A large explosion occurred, following which radioactive particles from eight reactors spread over 8,000 square kilometers. There were 172 cases of atomic burns and twenty cases of eye infection. Twelve villages and several collective farms had to be temporarily evacuated.

Panama City, Panama. In editorial comments sparked by Panama's brief detention of buccaneering Dame Margot Fonteyn, Britain's *New Statesman*—eggheadish organ of the Labor Party's collaborationist left wing—has revealed what the international Left has in mind for the Panama Canal: "The Americans' problem in Latin America is not unlike that of Britain in the Middle East. They are faced by a movement which cuts across formal frontiers in much the same way as Arab nationalism. . . . Castro in Cuba, Betancourt in Venezuela, the groups of exiles plotting against the dictators of Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras and the Dominican Republic—each of them commands support from Mexico to Chile. Those for whom Castro is now a hero resent the support that the U.S. has given in the past to the dictators and military cliques who kept their countries safe for American investors. . . . While there are substantial differences between the Latin-American regimes. . . . they all want social as well as political independence, and an end to Washington's hegemony in the region. . . . The Canal and the puppet republic that bestrides it are a symbol of an outmoded imperialism. Washington has far more to gain by generously anticipating the future than by clinging fearfully to the past. The phased concession of ownership, and the creation of a suitable international agency of control over the Canal must come eventually."

Conakry, Guinea. Kwame Nkrumah and Sekou Touré have just concluded a conference at which they privately recognized that last year's announcement of the marriage of Ghana and Guinea was vastly premature. Neither their economies nor their policies nor the separate ambitions of the two dynamic and authoritarian leaders permit fusion. They will still consult and collaborate in a vague, general way. And each will still seek to expand its sphere in changing Africa. But Nkrumah's eye seems now turning toward Togoland; and Touré's toward Senegal and the Ivory Coast.

Bonn, Germany. Both Austria and Germany have begun—with overwhelming success—the sale of government-owned enterprises to private citizens. The rules of the sale are designed to prevent any large holdings, and to favor: 1) the employees of the particular enterprise; 2)

small investors of modest means; 3) persons living near the property, with the idea that they will take more direct and personal interest in its affairs. When West Germany recently sold shares in Preussag, the \$25 million went to more than 200,000 individuals. The enthusiasm is not, however, unanimous. In both countries the Socialists are furious at this "people's capitalism," which they fear will attach the masses psychologically to the free market. And Radio Moscow denounced the Preussag distribution as "a vast cheating of the toiling masses."

Moscow, USSR. On May 14/15 regular air service began between Moscow and London. BOAC is flying Viscounts, and Aeroflot, TU-104's. The Soviet Union began its attempt to break into international air travel four years ago, and now has operating agreements with twenty-one nations, inclusive of its own satellites. Deals for regular service were made last year with India, Belgium, United Arab Republic, France and Holland; and with the Scandinavian countries a year earlier. Moscow is pushing hard for a reciprocal arrangement with the United States. Aeroflot is even making certain concessions to passenger comfort and morale, traditionally disregarded in Soviet practice.



Headline:
LOWER TAXES FOR
THE ENGLISH

—Carrefour

"These damned English! They've always got to be different."

Madrid, Spain. One of the topics of secret discussion at the NATO meeting held at Washington in April was Spain's entry into the NATO alliance and military structure. A series of rumors has just been confirmed by an interview given by Herr Adenauer to the Italian TV. Adenauer revealed that General de Gaulle had raised the question during their March discussions at the Chateau de Marly, and that it was the two of them who were sponsoring an invitation to Spain against an opposition which has come most strongly from the Scandinavian countries.

Nairobi, Kenya. The ferocious Mau Mau society of the Kikuyus, which seemed finally suppressed three years ago, has revived under the name Kiama Kia Muingi. The KKM members collect poison, in the Mau Mau tradition, and swear the Mau Mau double oath: "May it kill me if I do not kill someone." They pursue the Mau Mau objective: to drive out all Europeans, if necessary by poisoning them.

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